

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-09

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DRAFTED BY EA/IMS:DTKENNEY:CCH

APPROVED BY EA - MR. ZURHELLEN

EA/IMS - MR. INGRAHAM

PM - CAPT. PASZTALANIEC

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R 202319Z AUG 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 198369

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (GENERAL ABDUL HARIS NASUTION)

SUBJECT: MEDICAL TREATMENT FOR GENERAL NASUTION

REF: A. JAKARTA 9629 B. JAKARTA 10090 C. JAKARTA 10089

1. ALTHOUGH WE CAN NOT AT THIS POINT OFFER WALTER REED HOSPITAL, WE ARE PREPARED TO REQUEST MEDICAL TREATMENT FOR GENERAL NASUTION AT A US MEDICAL FACILITY -- ON A REIMBURSABLE BASIS -- IF WE RECEIVE AN OFFICIAL REQUEST FROM PRESIDENT SUHARTO.

2. WE ARE A LITTLE CONCERNED BY GROWING INDICATIONS THAT THE INDONESIANS ASSUME WALTER REED FACILITIES ARE AVAILABLE ON REQUEST FOR OFFICIAL AND UNOFFICIAL VIP'S. WHILE WE WISH TO CONTINUE TO BE RESPONSIVE, THE GOI SHOULD REALIZE THAT DOD MEDICAL FACILITIES AND WALTER REED, IN PARTICULAR, ARE OVER BURDENED AND THAT IN THE FUTURE THERE COULD BE REFUSALS OR DELAYS IN TAKING PATIENTS AND/OR IT MAY BE NECESSARY TO USE CIVILIAN FACILITIES.

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3. WE DO RECOGNIZE THAT NASUTION REPRESENTS SOMETHING OF A SPECIAL CASE BOTH BECAUSE OF THE PROMINENT POLITICAL ROLE HE HAS PLAYED IN INDONESIA IN THE LAST THREE DECADES

AND BECAUSE OF THE SUPPORT HE EXTENDED TO THE UNITED STATES IN THE PAST WHEN THE US HAD FEW PROMINENT FRIENDS IN JAKARTA. WE ALSO FEAR THAT BECAUSE HE HAS RECENTLY BEEN AN OUTSPOKEN CRITIC OF CORRUPTION AND IMPLICITLY OF THE SUHARTO ADMINISTRATION, EVEN A DISCREET REJECTION OF HIS REQUEST FOR MEDICAL CARE IS LIKELY TO BECOME WIDELY KNOWN IN POLITICAL CIRCLES IN JAKARTA AND MISINTERPRETED AS A POLITICAL GESTURE ON OUR PART.

4. WE THEREFORE SUGGEST THAT YOU INFORM DOCTOR ROEBIONO THAT WE WOULD RESPOND SYMPATHETICALLY TO A REQUEST TO PROVIDE MEDICAL CARE TO NASUTION BUT NOT NECESSARILY AT WALTER REED HOSPITAL. BECAUSE OF THE OFFICIAL CHARACTER OF THE MEDICAL FACILITIES INVOLVED, HOWEVER, THE REQUEST MUST COME OFFICIALLY FROM THE GOI AND PREFERABLY FROM PRESIDENT SUHARTO PERSONALLY. MAW

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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